

9. (ONCE AMENDED) A system to manage electronic documents used/produced when performing jobs, comprising:
servers connected to a network and storing master attribute information of jobs to be performed; and
a processor in communication with the servers via the network and storing in a storage unit electronic documents used/produced when performing the jobs and job attribute information of the documents, retrieving the master attribute information of the documents from the servers, and updating the job attribute information of each document responsive to a conflict between the job attribute information of each document and the master attribute information.

REMARKS

In the Office Action mailed August 3, 2001, claims 1-9 were rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hashimoto et al. (US Patent No. 5,893,114) in view of Domen et al. (US Patent No. 5,504,676) and Taylor (US Patent No. 5,832,497).

In the Office Action mailed August 3, 2001 the Examiner noted that claims 1-9 were pending, and rejected claims 1-9. Claims 1, 2, 3, 7 and 9 have been amended and, thus, claims 1-9 remain pending for reconsideration, which is requested.

No new matter has been added in this Amendment. The foregoing rejections are traversed.

DISTINCTIONS OF THE PRESENT INVENTION OVER THE PRIOR ART

In Taylor job means employment and Taylor relates to searching employment advertisements. In contrast, in the present invention, job means a task, for example, of creating documents such as drawings. In case of drawings, the drawing numbers have a hierarchical structure. Thus, the present invention is related to ontology. See page 6, line 5 to page 15, line 1; and Figs. 6-9. Independent claims 1, 7 and 9 are amended to clarify the distinguishing features of the present invention.

In contrast to the relied upon references, the present invention (as recited in amended independent claims 1 and 7 and 9, using the recitation of claim 1 as an example) is directed to “managing electronic documents used/produced when performing jobs” (emphasis added). More particularly, the present invention, using the recitation of claim 9 as an example, comprises:

a processor in communication with the servers via the network and storing in a storage unit electronic documents used/produced when performing the jobs and job attribute information of the documents, retrieving the master attribute information of the documents from the servers, and updating the job attribute information of each document responsive to a conflict between the job attribute information of each document and the master attribute information (emphasis added).

Further, in contrast to the relied upon references, the present invention as recited in claim 8 comprises “job attribute information of the documents to manage targets to which the documents are distributed” (emphasis added).

A benefit of the patentably distinguishing features is to provide a system in which, as objects to be distributed, documents, which include attribute information of the documents and the attribute information relate to a corporate organization for distribution of the objects, can be updated reflecting current corporate organization information.

PRIOR ART

Hashimoto

Hashimoto discloses a system for collecting document information referred from various document management servers through a communication network in a database managed by a user to allow retrieval of the document information. The system also notifies the user of new information from the various document management servers that relate to the referred document information.

In contrast to Hashimoto, the present invention manages “documents used/produced when performing jobs.” The present invention can maintain, retrieve and update “attribute information relating to the jobs” using “an information management device maintaining master

attribute information.” For example, a benefit is that the attribute information relating to the jobs and included in the documents can be updated by the “master attribute information.”

Taylor

Taylor discloses a system for posting and searching job advertisements, an online resume management system and an online resume submission system.

The present information relates to managing documents of jobs. In contrast to Taylor, in the present invention a job means a task. In Taylor a job relates to employment or a position to perform a task.

Domen

Domen relates to processing jobs of an office using forms of a predetermined input format. In particular, Domen accommodates job processing when a form's format is updated by separating a form's format information from processing of data input in the form (col. 3, line 57 to col. 4, line 17 and col. 15, lines 3-6).

In contrast to Domen, the present invention provides updating attribute information of a document, such as a drawing, which is “used/produced when performing a job.” The document attribute information can relate to the job, such as an entity that manages the job (e.g., an organization department).

In the Response to Arguments, the Examiner maintains that Domen implies conflict checking (page 8 of the Office Action). However, Domen separates form format information from input data so that when form format information changes, input data from the old form could be used for processing by the new form (col. 4, lines 10-17; and col. 15, lines 3-6 and lines 45-50). Domen does not require any type of conflict checking. Although, Domen discloses searching the format definition information in each slip data by an item and a retrieval condition, the searching possibly implies a comparison process but the searching and retrieving does not, as the Examiner appears to assert, disclose, suggest or imply any conflict checking.

CONCLUSION


Withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1-9 and allowance of claims 1-9 is respectfully requested.

Attached hereto is a marked-up version of the changes made to the claims by the current amendment. The attached page is captioned "Version with markings to show changes made."

In light of the amendments and remarks presented above, Applicant submits that this Application is now in condition for allowance, and such action is hereby respectfully requested.

If there are any formal matters remaining after this response, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned to attend to these matters.

Respectfully submitted,
STAAS & HALSEY LLP

By: 
Mehdi Sheikerz
Registration No. 41,307

700 Eleventh Street, NW, Suite 500
Washington, D.C. 20001
(202) 434-1500
Date: 12/3/2001

VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

IN THE CLAIMS

Claims 1, 2, 3, 7 and 9 are **AMENDED** as follows.

Recitation of all pending claims is provided for reference convenience.

1. (THREE TIMES AMENDED) A document management apparatus managing electronic documents [of] used/produced when performing jobs by being connected to an information management device maintaining master attribute information for a plurality types of attribute information included in said documents through a communication network, the attribute information relating to the jobs, said apparatus comprising:

a document storage section storing said documents;

a communication section acquiring information from a device connected to said communication network;

a determination section determining, for each document stored in said document storage section by reading out the master attribute information maintained by said information management device through said communication section, whether the attribute information included in the document conflicts with the master attribute information; and

a rewriting section rewriting any of the attribute information included in the document when said determination section determines that the attribute information conflicts with the master attribute information.

2. (THREE TIMES AMENDED) A document apparatus according to claim 1, wherein [said] each document [is a document including] comprises corporate organization codes as well as corporate organization names as attribute information used to manage distribution targets of each document[for managing targets to be distributed of a document as an object for distribution];

said determination section determines that attribute information included in a document conflicts with the master attribute information in a case where the corporate organization codes included in said document are stored in the master attribute information but a combination of the corporate organization codes with the corporate organization names is not stored therein,

and also in a case where the corporate organization names included in said document are stored in the master attribute information but a combination of the corporate organization codes with the corporate organization names is not stored therein; and

said rewriting section rewrites corporate organization names in said document when it is determined by said determination section that the attribute information include in said document conflicts with the master attribute information because the corporate organization codes included in said document are stored in the master attribute information but a combination of the corporate organization codes with the corporate organization names is not stored therein, and rewrites corporate organization codes in said document when it is determined by the determination section that the attribute information included in said document conflicts with the master attribute information because the corporate organization names included in said document are stored in the master information but a combination of the corporate organization codes with the corporate organization names is not stored therein.

3. (THREE TIMES AMENDED) A document management apparatus according to claim 2, wherein [said]each document [as an object for distribution] is correlated to job information;

a second information management device maintaining second master attribute information₁ in which a corporate organization code or a corporate organization name can be retrieved [from] using job information₁ is connected to the communication network; said document managing apparatus further comprising:

a retrieving section retrieving, for each [of said] document stored in the document storage section, a corporate organization code or a corporate organization name correlated to job information of [related to] the document [as an object for distribution with the document related thereto] from the second master attribute information maintained by said second information management device through said communication section; and

a second rewriting section rewriting contents of said document, when a combination of the corporate organization code with the corporate organization name retrieved by said retrieving section does not coincide with the combination of the corporate organization code with the corporate organization name included in said document.

4. (as ONCE AMENDED) A document management apparatus according to claim 1 further comprising an electronic mail outputting section outputting, when a document is rewritten, an electronic mail to notify changing of an attribute information in the document to each department identified by the attribute information included in with rewritten document.

5. (as ONCE AMENDED) A document management apparatus according to claim 2 further comprising an electronic mail outputting section outputting, when a document is rewritten, an electronic mail to notify changing of attribute information in the document to each department identified by the attribute information included in the rewritten document.

6. (as ONCE AMENDED) A document management apparatus according to claim 3 further comprising an electronic mail outputting section outputting, when a document is rewritten, an electronic mail to notify changing of attribute information in the document to each department identified by the attribute information included in the rewritten document.

7. (THREE TIMES AMENDED) A computer-readable recording medium with a computer program recorded therein causing a computer having a communication section function as a document management apparatus managing electronic documents [relating to]used/produced when performing jobs by being connected to an information management device maintaining master attribute information for a plurality types of attribute information included in said documents through a communication network, the attribute information relating to the jobs, said apparatus comprising:

a document storage section storing said documents;

a determination section determining for each document stored in said document storage section by reading out the master attribute information maintained by said information management device through said communication section whether the attribute information included in the document conflicts with the master attribute information; and

a rewriting section rewriting any of the attribute information included in the document when said determination section determines that the attribute information conflicts with the master attribute information.

8. (as ONCE AMENDED) A computer system in communication with an information management system and managing document distribution, comprising:

a processor storing in a storage unit documents and job attribute information of the documents to manage targets to which the documents are distributed, retrieving master job attribute information of the documents from the information management system, determining whether the job attribute information of each document conflicts with the master job attribute information, and updating the job attribute information of each document when determined that the job attribute information of each document conflicts with the master job attribute information.

9. (ONCE AMENDED) A system to manage electronic documents [of]used/produced when performing jobs, comprising:

servers connected to a network and storing master [job] attribute information of jobs to be performed; and

a processor in communication with the servers via the network and storing in a storage unit [the] electronic documents used/produced when performing the jobs and job attribute information of the documents, retrieving the master [job] attribute information of the documents from the servers, and updating the job attribute information of each document responsive to a conflict between the job attribute information of each document and the master attribute information.